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Approved For Release 2006/11/13 : CIA-RDP80M00165A000800070004-6

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The President

May 17, 1976

F 76-

Mr. George Bush
Director
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D. C. 20505

Dear Mr. Bush:

The Senate Select Committee on Intelligence Activities, under the Chairmanship of Senator Frank Church, in its report on covert and clandestine relations between the C.I.A. and universities, recommended no action to prohibit such relations. Instead, the Senate Select Committee said it believes "it is the responsibility of private institutions and particularly the American academic community to set the professional and ethical standards of its members."

I accept the responsibility named by the Senate Select Committee, and write you for information which I need in order to discharge it. Under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552), I wish to know, as President of Amherst College, whether any intelligence operation conducted by the C.I.A. has involved any faculty member, student, or employee of Amherst College, including, but not limited to, paid or unpaid agents or informers.

I do not wish to have the name of specific individuals. I wish only to know whether and to what extent any individual at Amherst College may have been involved in covert relations with the C.I.A. Frankly, I am incredulous that any individual could possibly have been, but then the report of the Senate Select Committee is surely a challenge to innocent faith in the operations of agencies of the United States government.

I do not wish to lecture faculty, students, or employees of the College, in the abstract, about their professional and ethical obligations. To do so could only arouse general suspicion and free-floating anxiety, wonderment about why I address the question at all. I find myself in the awkward position of not knowing, by definition, whether there is some secret arrangement between the C.I.A. and any member of the College, now or in the past.

Important issues are involved. At Amherst College, we try to teach students to live by a code of "intellectual responsibility." A sentence from that code reads, "Amherst cannot educate those who are unwilling to submit their own work and ideas to critical assessment." The sentence is an attempt to capture in words the ideal of an intellectual community, the belief that openness, honesty, the willingness to say what one has to say and to accept criticism and to listen to opposing views are essential, the necessary conditions of intellectual life. Secrecy subverts those essential values and conditions of an academic community.

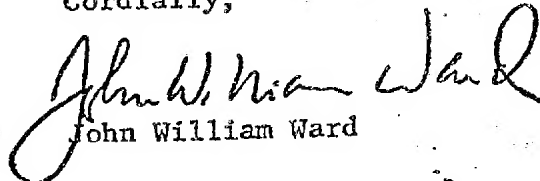
More is involved, no less than the conditions of freedom in a pluralistic and free society. That is not simply rhetoric. Your responsibilities as Director of the Central Intelligence Agency are heavy and grave. The justification of all you do derives finally from the defense of freedom. But in a free society, the surest way to subvert freedom is to call into doubt, to question the authenticity and credibility of free and independent institutions within American society itself.

Between the isolated individual and the awesome power of the state, a free society depends upon intermediate institutions to act as buffers against power, to say "No" to power. To erode the capacity to believe that private institutions do play the role which freedom requires is to create a psychology of mistrust and fear which can only weaken freedom itself.

Your responsibility is great. My responsibility is small. But to discharge my responsibility, namely, to remind members of one academic community of their proper intellectual and moral and political responsibility, requires information from you. It is information legally required, but I would not insist on that. It is morally required.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Cordially,


John William Ward

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cc: William W. Van Alstyne, President, AAUP
George L. Shinn, Chairman, Board of Trustees
Senator Frank Church
Senator Edward Kennedy
Senator Edward Brooke

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24 SEP 1976

Mr. John William Ward
President, Amherst College
Amherst, Massachusetts

Dear President Ward:

This is in response to your letters of 17 May 1976 and 2 August 1976 to the Director of Central Intelligence (DCI) requesting, under the Freedom of Information Act, information concerning "paid or unpaid contacts between the CIA and any faculty member, student or employee of Amherst College."

As you can appreciate, this Agency receives many requests for information under the Freedom of Information Act regarding confidential relationships between the CIA and various foreign and American individuals and institutions. We are obliged, however, to respond to such requests neither affirmatively nor negatively because the DCI has a responsibility, under paragraph 102(d)(3) of the National Security Act of 1947, to protect intelligence sources and methods from unauthorized disclosure. To the extent that this constitutes a denial of your request it was made pursuant to the authority of exemption (b)(3) of the Freedom of Information Act.

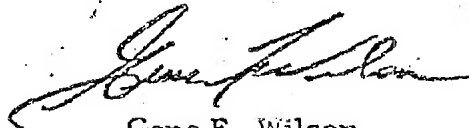
This determination was made by Mr. Charles A. Briggs, Chief, Services Staff. We would hope that the Director's letter of June 5, 1976 and the above findings will satisfy your concern. However, as specified in the Freedom of Information Act, I am advising you of your right to appeal this decision by addressing your appeal to the CIA Information Review Committee, via the undersigned.

I am sure you will understand that we cannot deny the existence of such relationships in response to one inquiry without being compelled to acknowledge them in some others. Accordingly, please understand that this response should not be taken to imply that Amherst College personnel have been engaged in confidential relationships with the Central Intelligence Agency.



I regret that under the circumstances we are unable to be more forthcoming in our response to your request. May I add, however, that as the Director pointed out in his letter to you of June 5, any academician with whom the Agency has a relationship is free to acknowledge that fact to his or her college or university administration. Let me also repeat his assurance that we do understand and appreciate the vital role of our colleges and universities in the preservation of freedom.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Gene F. Wilson".

Gene F. Wilson
Information and Privacy Coordinator

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

Mr. John William Ward
President, Amherst College
Amherst, Massachusetts 01002

Dear Mr. Ward:

Please accept my apology for the tardiness of my reply to your letter of February 2, 1977.

Your appeal from CIA's previous denial of your Freedom of Information request and all related correspondence have been very carefully reviewed by the CIA Information Review Committee which, as you may know from our regulations published in the Code of Federal Regulations [Paragraph 1900.51(a) of Chapter XIX, Title 32], is composed of the Deputy Directors of the CIA. After due consideration of all questions involved in this matter, including specifically the points raised in your letter, as well as the Freedom of Information Act itself, the relevant case law, and the responsibilities of the Director of Central Intelligence pursuant to the National Security Act, the Information Review Committee has decided to affirm the decision communicated to you in the September 24, 1976, letter of Gene F. Wilson, the Information and Privacy Coordinator.

In your letter of May 17, 1976, you said that you wished to know "whether any intelligence operations conducted by the CIA has involved any faculty member, student or employee of Amherst College, including but not limited to paid or unpaid agents or informers." Your letter also stated that, while you did not request the names of any specific individuals, you wished to know "whether and to what extent any individual at Amherst Collège may have been involved in covert relations with the CIA."-----As you know, the Freedom of Information Act provides that a requester may be given access to government records but does not oblige the government to reply to specific questions. Nevertheless, inasmuch as the letter by former Director George Bush, dated June 5, 1976, apparently did not satisfactorily resolve your questions, in the spirit of the Freedom of Information Act we have interpreted your request as a request for records that might exist which would be responsive to the questions you have asked in your May 17 letter.



The CIA can neither confirm nor deny that it has any records which might be responsive to your request. Pursuant to the National Security Act of 1947 [50 USC 40d(d)(3)] the Director of Central Intelligence (DCI) has the responsibility to protect intelligence sources and methods from unauthorized disclosure. To acknowledge the existence of records which document the type of relationship you have described would be in violation of the DCI's statutory responsibility. Your request, then, is denied pursuant to exemption (b)(3) of the Freedom of Information Act.

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I wish to emphasize that this answer does not, by any means, imply that any sort of covert relationship exists between the CIA and any faculty member, student or employee of Amherst. You will understand, of course, that the CIA must consistently refuse to confirm or deny the existence of covert relationships whether, in any given instance, such a relationship exists or does not exist. To deny that such relationships exist in those instances where none exists and then to refuse to confirm or deny the existence of such relationships only in those instances where such do exist would make the refusal tantamount to confirmation. Thus, the CIA must in all cases refuse to confirm or deny the existence of covert relationships. (You may be interested in an opinion of the U.S. District Court in the Central District of California which addressed itself to a similar problem; Stanley D. Bachrack v. CIA, a copy of which is attached. In that case, the Freedom of Information requester had requested records concerning the relationship between a named individual and the CIA, and CIA had refused to confirm or deny whether it had records.)

Records of the Domestic Collection Division do indicate past contact with Amherst College, although such contacts were neither covert nor clandestine. This Division openly collects foreign intelligence from American citizens who voluntarily and without compensation provide information to their government. The most common example of this activity is the debriefing of an American citizen who has travelled abroad and who, because of his itinerary or particular field of knowledge, acquires foreign intelligence information. As stated in Mr. Bush's letter, these relationships are kept confidential, usually at the individual's request. The individual is free to acknowledge this type of relationship openly, but for CIA to do so would be a violation of his or her right to privacy.

Pursuant to paragraph (4)(B) subsection (a) of the Freedom of Information Act you have the right to seek judicial review of this determination in a United States district court.

Sincerely,

[Redacted Signature]

John F. Blake
Chairman
Information Review Committee

Enclosure

STAT

CRAWFORDSVILLE, INDIANA 47933

LILLY LIBRARY

(317) 362-1400

June 8, 1977

Admiral Stansfield Turner
Central Intelligence Agency
McLean, Virginia 22101

Dear Admiral Turner:

A friend of mine from DePauw University tells me it is possible that you may visit DePauw on November 11. If you do, would it be possible for you also to come to Wabash College? We are only thirty miles from Greencastle.

I would like to invite you to address our student body, faculty, and townspeople on any subject of your choice but particularly on some phase of intelligence activities that can be discussed. We have a student body of 800 men. An evening would be preferable but we could consider another time of day.

I hope you can give us a favorable reply. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Donald E. Thompson

Donald E. Thompson
Chairman, Lecture Committee

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177-7826

June 1, 1977

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[Redacted]
Central Intelligence Agency
McLean, Virginia 22101

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Dear [Redacted]

A friend of mine from DePauw University says it is possible that Admiral Turner may visit DePauw on November 11. If he does, would it be possible for the admiral to consider visiting Wabash College. We are only thirty miles from DePauw.

I shall appreciate hearing from you and hope for a favorable reply. Thank you for your help.

Sincerely yours,

Donald E. Thompson
Librarian

DET/mvm

(CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY FILE)

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June 3, 1977

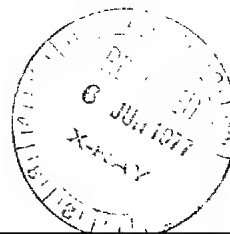
Dear Mr. Evans:

I talked with your brother Dan about this and he suggested that I write to you. Could I ask your assistance, please?

D.F. EVANS
BOARD MEMBER
TREASURER
WABASH COLLEGE

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RAWFORDSVILLE, INDIANA 47933



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[Redacted]
Central Intelligence Agency
McLean, Virginia 22101

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MEMORANDUM FOR: *UCM*
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1 June 1977

Dear Bill:

Thank you for your thoughtful letter of 19 May. I too enjoyed our visit and certainly understand that your duties there at Amherst are going to keep you fully immersed these next few weeks.

Thanks again and all the best. *Hope to be in here!*

Yours

STANSFIELD TURNER

Dr. William Taubman
Department of Political Science
Amherst College
Amherst, Massachusetts 01002

DCI:sk
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0 - Addressee
1 - DCI
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Routing Slip

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PRIORITY

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Remarks:

To 17: Please process claim & let me have check for conveyance by DCI

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EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

Routing Slip

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SUSPENSE _____ Date _____

Remarks:

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Executive Secretary

28 April 1977

Date

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